New Developments in OSM's Western Region
Abstract
Presented by: Louis Hamm, Chief, TIPS Training and Technology Transfer Branch, OSM, Western Region

The past 20 months have brought significant change to the OSM's Western Region. In February of 2005 the Technology Management Division was created in the Western Region office in Denver, bringing the operation of the National TIPS service and the Western Region's IT operations under the Management of Billie Clark.

A short time later, the Western Region was impacted by the retirement of both Linda Wagner and Joe Galetovic, effectively removing the heart and soul of the Western Region's Technology Transfer program. To address the crisis of such a turn over, Regional Director Al Klein placed the operation of the Western Region's Technology Transfer efforts directly into Billie Clark's newly formed Technology Management Division.

Through this sequence of events the Western Region's Technology Transfer efforts have expanded to include not only Western Region OSM Field Offices, but the Technology Transfer efforts of both other OSM Regions as well. This effort also brings the technology tools of the National TIPS service into full cooperation with Technology Transfer. Technology Transfer can offer numerous products and services to the Federal, State, and Tribal AML/Regulatory offices.

For example, the latest TIPS efforts and simple examples of how they can be integrated into individual AML programs include:

1. The advancement of Mobile Computing technology for accurate in-the-field mapping (locating and recording AML features);
2. Remote sensing technology including thermal imaging, satellite imagery, and LIDAR (identifying/categorizing abandoned mine fires, and features);
3. A nation-wide cooperative effort to develop a standard method of producing Geographic Information System (GIS) data to readily share between State, Tribal, and Federal offices (compiling AML features into one easily accessible system).

Keywords: Technology Transfer, OSM, Western Region, TIPS, Mobile Computing, Remote Sensing.